

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

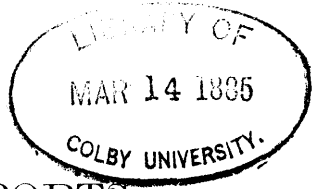
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Public Documents of Maine:

BEING THE



ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE VARIOUS

PUBLIC OFFICERS AND INSTITUTIONS

FOR THE YEAR

1883.

VOLUME I.

AUGUSTA:

SPRAGUE & SON, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1883.

Inaugural Address

OF

FREDERICK ROBIE

TO THE

LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

January 4, 1883.



AUGUSTA:

SPRAGUE & SON, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1883.

ADDRESS.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives:

We have assembled under the sanction of constitutional authority for the purpose of consulting together on the promotion of the highest and best interests of the State of Maine. As fit representatives of an intelligent constituency, I have the honor to welcome you to the Capitol of the State, and congratulate you that you hold a position which has heretofore been occupied by worthy and distinguished legislators.

It is with feelings of personal pride that I acknowledge the high honor which has been conferred upon me by the independent suffrage of a majority of the people of this State. I have accepted the position of Chief Executive, and taken the oaths of office with a profound sense of its responsibility and of my incapacity to meet fully the expectations of the people, but this feeling is supplemented by a desire and determination "to act well my part," to the best of my ability. I, therefore, respectfully claim the indulgence of all.

The real object of government has been clearly defined in the preamble of our National and State constitutions; let our acts be in accordance with the wise teachings and principles therein expressed; and from the purposes indicated, let there be no departure.

Before entering upon our Legislative duties, it becomes us to follow venerated customs, and acknowledge with grateful hearts our obligations to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe; to thank Him devoutly for the manifold blessings bestowed upon our State in the past, and to humbly implore Divine aid

and guidance for the future. The obligation and oaths which we have taken under the constitution, should render our responsibilities a matter of constant solicitude; that there should be an exact and just observance of all those principles of economy and demands of justice which constitute and measure wise legislation. One of the early Governors of the "District of Maine," mentioned "piety, justice, moderation, temperance, industry and frugality as the essentials of good government." Let us not fail to heed and follow the wise teachings of our fathers, "for they left deep footprints wherever they trod."

Since the adjournment of the last Legislature, the American people have passed through the trying experiences of a Divine dispensation which has before visited this nation. The wisdom of such repeated inflictions baffles man's comprehension; but we calmly submit, since the responsibility rests with a Supreme Power, whose acts are far beyond human understanding. President Garfield was a representative American; commencing at the lowest round of the ladder, he reached the highest summit of earthly honor. On his funeral day, the people of Maine stood thoughtfully beneath the shadow of a national bereavement and rendered their tribute of sincerest sorrow for the loss of their beloved President. Then, as when Washington, Jackson and Lincoln died, partisan feeling was forgotten in universal grief.

It is one of the out-growths of civilization and education, the leaven which preserves our nation, not to measure personal character by the standard of partisanship, but justly to award to all truly great men the meed which belongs to conscientious acts of patriotism and lofty statesmanship. It is the calm and reflective judgment which is rendered after passion, selfishness and partisan criticism have lost their influence, that makes up a just and reliable history of events and writes the true biography of great men. Let us be ever ready to perpetuate the memory of our great leaders by suitable and enduring memorials and monuments.

THE GROWTH AND RESOURCES OF THE STATE.

In order to fully appreciate the obligation we owe to the public, it becomes a paramount duty that we should understand the capacity and resources of our State, since its laws and general welfare are to be the subject of special study. We have recently entered upon a new decade, and the work incident to making a new census has been completed. A vast amount of important statistical facts relating to the material interests of the country and State has been brought to light since the last session of the Legislature. We draw from the information thus gathered, interesting and important conclusions; and by a comparison of our substantial interests in the present and past, we have sufficient reason to rejoice in our general increase in population, advancement in wealth, education, morals, and all those elements of material power which make a State strong and its people prosperous and happy.

The changes that have taken place in this country within the period of less than three centuries are, indeed, marvelous. In 1607, civilization first dawned on the shores of New England and made Pemaquid famous in historic lore. In December, 1620, our Pilgrim Fathers immortalized Plymouth Rock on the shore of the ocean. Brave men, resolute women with self-reliant children, stood together upon a lonely shore and gazed upon a gloomy and unbroken wilderness. They landed on and occupied a country where everything was prehistoric. Nothing of importance existed of a traditional character, and the simple bow and arrow furnished the only evidence of a capacity for future enlightenment. To use their own language: "They left their own beautiful homes to plant poor cabins in the wilderness." They desired to found a free agricultural State, where Christianity would naturally find its greatest security and perform its greatest work. Daniel Webster has truly said: "Our forefathers sought our shores under no high wrought spirit of commercial adventure, no love of gold, no mixture of purpose warlike or hostile to any human being; accustomed, in their own

land, to no more than a plain country life and the innocent trade of husbandry, they set the example of colonizing New England and formed the mould of the civil and religious character of its inhabitants." For this they first planted the church, and by its side immediately reared the school-house; and in these two institutions all our greatness had its origin. Under an equal yoke, they were the advance propelling power, which has opened America to civilization and freedom. Now, fortunately for us, with a population of over fifty millions, and rapidly increasing, on the corner of the cross-road leading to the village centre, may be seen the same New England school-house, and nestling in the valley, the modest church with its spire pointing to the azure sky, where the religion and morals of our fathers are taught. Wherever these sentinels have appeared as the advance guard of progress, good government, art and science have moved forward and asserted control. Let these conspicuous elements of a free government continue to be our national birthright, and whatever of higher education, general refinement and more enlarged culture we can add thereto, we thereby simply do our duty. We shall thus transmit a rich inheritance to the future occupants of American soil.

The information that we gather from the statistics of agriculture is very gratifying, and furnishes conclusive proof that the vast increase of our population belongs to the producing classes. Along the Atlantic coast where commerce, manufactures and mercantile pursuits are largely represented, population shows an increase, during the last decade, of only 13.6 per centum, while the central belt and the trans-Mississippi region, which represent the farming and producing interests of the country, have increased in population 86.4 per centum. The acres cultivated in the United States have nearly doubled in ten years, and the total amount of cereals produced in 1879 was 2,697,737,920 bushels over the crop of 1869, or nearly 100 per cent. increase. In 1860 we produced five and one-half bushels of wheat to each inhabitant;

it is now nine bushels, and is increasing in the same ratio. Formerly, France was king in cereal productions; now the United States leads the column and is prospectively the most powerful of all nations of the globe. There are over four million farms in the United States — an increase of fifty-one per cent. during the past decade. The increase of the number of farms is relatively much larger in the Southern States, where formerly immense landed estates were owned by single individuals.

The census of the district of Maine in the year 1800, gave a population of 151,719—which showed an unexpected increase of over 55 per cent. between that date and the first enumeration of its inhabitants under the Federal constitution in 1790. In the year 1820, when Maine became a sovereign and independent State in the Union, the population was unexpectedly large, being 298,269. For the four following decades from 1820, the decennial increase of population was as follows: In 1830, 33 per cent.; in 1840, 26 per cent.; in 1850, 16 per cent.; in 1860, 8 per cent.; so that the population that year was 628,279. In 1870 the census showed an actual loss of 1364 inhabitants. The result gave rise to anxiety in regard to the future, and speculation in regard to its causes. It was, however, explained that the great loss of life among the brave soldiers of Maine during the civil war and other circumstances had contributed to this result. In 1870, increase of population again commenced, and we now have a population of 648,936, which shows a gain of 22,000 over the census of 1870, a gain of 4 per cent. over the last census, and an addition of 118 per cent. since 1819.

The valuation of the real and personal property of the State, measures its aggregate wealth, and the large and rapid increase that we have made in valuation (constantly advancing the past sixty years) represents better than population, the material condition of our people and the general prosperity of the State. In the year 1820, when Maine became an independent State, our total valuation was only \$20,962,778;

in 1830, \$28,807,687; in 1840, \$69,246,288; in 1850, \$100,037,964; in 1860, \$162,158,581; in 1870, \$224,822,800; in 1880, our valuation reached the sum of \$235,978,716, an increase of 876 per cent. since 1820.

The increase of the number of miles of railroad in Maine during the past decade indicates a condition of increasing prosperity. In 1870 we had 786-6 miles of railroads; we now have 1013 miles. The railroad has been extended into Aroostook county, "the garden of Maine," bringing the productions of that rich soil into the great markets of the country. This has contributed very much towards increasing our population and valuation. In this connection, I can but congratulate the people of Maine on the excellent management and condition of our railroads. For further particulars and statistics, I refer you to the report of the Railroad Commissioners.

The census of 1880 showed that there were in the State of Maine, 64,309 farms, an increase of 4,495, or 8 per cent. during the last decade, and that 60,528 of these were owned by the farmers who occupied them, the balance being rented for money or worked on shares. This certainly precludes the possibility of any immediate danger from non-ownership of land, or from a landed aristocracy.

The lumbering industry of the "Pine Tree State" has a high claim on our consideration. The number of establishments devoted to this industry are 848, employing 9,836 men, and the total value of all products in 1880 was \$7,933,868. Maine holds the rank of seventh State in the Union in the value of her lumber products, the States of Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, New York, Ohio and Indiana, in the order named, taking the lead. The Forestry Bulletin from the Department of the Interior estimates the merchantable pine standing on the large rivers and tributaries of our State, May 31st, 1880, at 475,000,000 feet, and spruce, 5,000,000,000 feet. Consequently with wise regulations for its use, Maine has the prospect of a prosperous future for many years in its lumber as a source of industry and wealth.

The ocean, river, and lake fisheries of Maine are becoming an increasing industry. The industrious and hardy population of fishermen on the banks of our rivers, and especially those who gain a livelihood amid the dangers incident to the high seas, add much to the productive wealth of the State, and are entitled to the grateful consideration of every citizen. Maine leads the column and stands at the head of the great fishing industry of the country. In 1880, the number of persons employed in the industry was 12,662; the number of vessels engaged was 606; the capital invested was \$3,454,302; value of fishing products in marketable condition was \$3,739,224. The value of the same products in 1870 was only \$979,610.

It is estimated that the number of our population who are largely dependent upon the fishing industry for a livelihood will not fall short of 48,000 men, women and children, which is equal to about $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of our population, and when, to the result of this labor are added the expense of transportation and profits of handling, and the product is in the hands of the consumer, it represents an industry of nearly \$7,000,000.

The gathering and storing of ice is comparatively a new industry in Maine, but is a profitable one, and gives employment to many. The ice harvest on the Kennebec river and vicinity in the year 1880, amounted to 1,000,000 tons, an increase of 750,000 tons over 1870.

The quarrying, cutting, and shipping of granite in the hands of our enterprising citizens has become one of the most important industries and sources of wealth in the State. In this industry Maine leads. There is scarcely a large city in the Union whose finest public buildings and most costly monuments do not display the richness of our stone, and the skill of our artisans.

MANUFACTURES.

The statistics of manufacturers, which are furnished by the Census Bulletin, show a marvelous increase in this industry. The increase in the production of agricultural implements

surpasses every other branch. There are now two thousand establishments, employing forty thousand mechanics, with a capital of \$62,109,668, and turning out implements for our farms valued at \$68,640,486. The number of manufacturing establishments in the United States, 253,840; capital, \$2,790,223,506; persons employed, 2,737,950; wages paid, \$947,919,674; value of products over five billions. Maine stands well in the list, and is becoming a leading manufacturing State, her relative position being about the fifteenth in the Union. The number of manufacturing establishments in Maine are 4,481; capital, \$49,984,571; number of persons employed, 52,948; amount of wages paid yearly, \$13,621,538; value of materials, \$51,119,286; value of products, \$79,825,393. This army of mechanics and laborers, and the capital invested, form an interest which calls for more than ordinary care and judgment, in order that the rights of labor and capital should be regulated with regard to security and justice. That the great interests of the country be properly protected, and the wages of the laborer made remunerative to himself, should be the true end of legislation.

The manufactories of our State are constantly increasing, and statistics show that every branch of mechanical industry is making satisfactory progress. The beautiful cities of Lewiston, Auburn, Biddeford, and the towns of Waterville and Westbrook may soon have their rivals in other portions of the State. The manufacture of cotton takes the lead. There are but three States in the Union that use more bales of cotton, but four work more spindles, and but four employ more persons in the cotton mills, than the State of Maine. The growth of this department of industry is shown by the following statistics: In 1870 the number of looms in the State was 9,902; the number of spindles, 459,772; the number of bales of cotton used was 46,000; the number of persons employed, 9,439. In 1880 the number of looms was 15,978; spindles, 695,924; bales of cotton, 112,381; employes, 11,864.

AGRICULTURE.

A great statesman once said: "Agriculture feeds us, it clothes us, without it we could not have manufactures, we should not have commerce; these all stand together like pillars in a cluster, the largest in the centre, that largest is Agriculture." The State of Maine furnishes all the natural requisites and advantages for successful agriculture, unlimited commerce and extensive manufactures. It has an area of 35,000 square miles or 22,400,000 acres; its settled area covers only one-half of its territory, and measures 17,895 square miles. A large part of this territory is sparsely settled, 6,000 square miles of its inhabited area having only from two to six inhabitants to a square mile. We admit there are many square miles of land which would require extensive drainage and costly cultivation for a livelihood, but there is little land so barren that intelligent labor cannot make it valuable, and there are thousands of acres of unimproved land in the State of Maine, with as deep and rich a soil as can be found elsewhere, where all the staple agricultural products of New England can be raised, and this with the raising of sheep and other stock would furnish ample reward to a skilful and industrious farmer. We invite those seeking new homes to examine the unimproved and rich farming lands of Aroostook county and other portions of our State, now near the markets in consequence of new railroad facilities. In cereal productions, Maine makes a good record. The Department of Agriculture informs us that the soil of Maine produces more buckwheat per acre than that of any other State. In the yield of corn to the acre, only six States in the Union make a better exhibit, the average being thirty-four bushels per acre, which is only five bushels behind Michigan, the State having the largest production. In rye, Maine is the tenth State, and in potatoes the same; but in hay, it is the thirtieth State in its yield per acre, which is evidence that more cultivation and fertilizers are needed on our extended and wasted fields. In the year 1879, Maine

produced per acre 16 7-100 per cent. more corn and 4 6-10 more wheat than the average yield of these crops in the United States. In all these staple productions of the farm, Maine is ahead of Vermont and Rhode Island of the East, and leaves behind her the great agricultural States of Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Kansas and Iowa of the West. In 1880 the farming industry of Maine owned 87,848 horses, an increase of 23 per cent. over 1870, and 43,049 working oxen. Its dairy interest was represented by 150,845 milch cows, 8 per cent. increase over 1870. There was also credited to her 140,527 other cattle. The number of sheep on our farms was 565,918, 30 per cent. more than in 1870. The number of swine was 74,369, an increase of 63 per cent. over 1870. The value of Maine farm products, including stock, in 1869 was \$33,470,044; in 1879, \$38,500,000, an increase of over 14 per cent.

The grand total shows Maine to be one of the leading agricultural States in the Union. These facts, which might be extended, should induce immigration to our State and keep our young men at home. The majority of the male population of this State, and even of the nation, are husbandmen and directly interested in agriculture, more than half the wealth of the country being invested in that industry. The pioneer who uses the axe and the spade, holds the plough and guides it through the soil of Maine, best knows how stubborn it is in yielding to the dominion of labor; but when conquered, the result secures a good livelihood, an honorable citizenship, and an independent home. The Swedish immigrant and other settlers deserve the hearty good will and encouragement of the State, and he who follows the pioneer and, by science and skill, "makes two blades of grass grow where but one grew before," is a public benefactor. Both are entitled to the protection of wise and generous laws. I desire to emphasize the fact that the cultivated fields are the primal source of national prosperity, wealth and happiness. There is, consequently, no class of our fellow citizens, that

has higher claims on our consideration than the tiller of the soil.

The demands of our agriculturists have been very few, and their petitions for legislation easily satisfied. Heretofore there has been little within the scope of legislative action that could specially promote the interests of agriculture; but as it has become a science, its claims have increased, and more should now be done. Our National Government has wisely instituted and supports a Bureau of Agriculture, and it has donated lands for agricultural colleges. There are several plans before Congress calculated to enlarge the duties of the Commissioner of Agriculture, and to make him a cabinet officer, which may result in creating a National Department with several experimental, well distributed agricultural stations. This will give the Department of Agriculture a broad and dignified national character. Let us be true to the interest that feeds and clothes us, gives life, motion and business to the commercial world, for its importance overshadows all other interests. May we not introduce as one of the purposes of the agricultural department of the State College, a plan whereby there shall be a closer and more advantageous connection between the college and the farmer? The people desire to know what is accomplished by way of experiment. That agriculturist is far behind the car of progress, who has no belief or confidence in experimental agriculture. Private enterprise is supporting agricultural experimental stations with signal success, and a few States are doing the same. As the result, pure seeds and unadulterated fertilizers are sold and distributed, silos and ensilage better understood, the interest in raising the best farm stock of all kinds is increased, the treatment of diseases of animals made a subject of investigation, information obtained in regard to the prevention of the ravages of insects, soils are analyzed to ascertain what elements need to be supplied, experiments are made as to the best mode of cultivating the staple products of our State. All these form the basis of scientific agriculture. The Republic of France appropriates

\$20,534,410 for agricultural purposes; Prussia, \$2,612,340; Russia, \$14,826,184; and even Sweden, with an area not larger than the State of California, \$651,737. The United States only appropriates \$174,686 to foster the productive interests of the entire country.

I would suggest that arrangements be made so that the farm of the State College, under the direction of the Professor of Agriculture and Chemistry, be used, as far as practicable, for the upbuilding and protecting of the agricultural interests of the State, as an experimental station, and I would recommend a more general diffusion of experimental knowledge through the medium of circulars and bulletins, and, if necessary, that appropriations be made for that purpose.

COMMERCE.

It is a gratifying fact that ship building has been revived in Maine, and that the enterprise and ability of the shipbuilders of our State are commanding nearly the entire business of the country in building wooden vessels. But one ship has been built outside of Maine during the past year on the entire Atlantic coast. The energy and business capacity of the citizens of Bath have restored to that city its former importance. Their ship yards furnish over two-thirds of the ship tonnage of the State and nation. Important questions affecting ship building and ship owners are before Congress, which will receive the careful consideration of our delegation. The result will deeply affect our future prosperity. The merchant marine of foreign countries, under less restriction and more liberal laws than our own, has an easy competition with American vessels. We are the greatest exporting nation in the world. Our treaties with foreign nations should be modified, burdens removed, and such protection afforded as will restore our commerce and protect us in all the advantages that legitimately belong to a great and powerful nation.

I have noted thus far the general statistics of the census showing the solid growth of the State, in order to refute a somewhat prevalent impression that Maine is not a prosperous

and vigorous commonwealth. I repel the flippant insinuations that Maine is a good State to emigrate from. Its prosperity demonstrates that it is one of the best of States in which to live. I congratulate you, gentlemen, that all her interests were never more prosperous and her future was never more promising than it is to-day.

EDUCATION.

We find by a recent tabulation of the nation's illiteracy that our own State occupies an advance position in the matter of public intelligence. While New Mexico shows a population in which 60.2 per cent. cannot read, and several States furnish a deplorable record, Maine shows an inability to read of only 3.5 per cent., there being but four States that show a less number. Intelligence is an essential element of public prosperity, and if it does not secure, promotes industry, economy and morality. Where these are wanting long continued prosperity is impossible. Intelligence, then, must be made universal. If it is partial, class distinctions will arise, the equality of man before the law will be endangered and the fundamental idea of free institutions will be made impossible. To secure this intelligence of our citizens, the State has instituted directly a system of public schools, and indirectly, by its encouragement and aid, a system of private instruction for higher education. This system received in substance from the parent Commonwealth of Massachusetts has been somewhat modified in form to meet the exigencies of changing circumstances. It comprises the "Common Schools," the "Free High Schools," the "Normal Schools," and the Agricultural College; these constitute the public part of the system. The State expended for the support of this system of public education, during the year ending April 1, 1881, \$965,697. An interest which demands so large a yearly expenditure, is worthy of the careful legislation of the representatives of this State. That the expenditure is not unduly large is shown by the following facts: First, that Maine is

the twenty-first in rank according to the length of schools ; while it is the thirty-third State in regard to wages paid, only five paying less. May it not be well to inquire whether a more liberal expenditure even, would not promote the material prosperity of the State? If it be true that industry and economy rest on intelligence, and that skilled labor, the most potent factor in producing wealth, also rests on intelligence, is it not apparent that to secure the advance of the State in prosperity, it must be advanced in education. The carrying on of this school system employs 6,500 teachers, whose fitness for their work determines largely, whether the annual expenditure for schools does or does not yield the greatest possible returns to the State. One-third of these teachers enter the schools without experience or special training. Like unskilled workers in every other department of labor, they waste time and materials, and prove unprofitable. To prevent this loss, the State has established three normal schools. That special normal and training schools for the professional preparation of teachers, are recognized by all civilized States as an essential element of sound educational progress, is shown by the fact that in the various countries of Europe, there are seven hundred and eighteen such schools with over eighty thousand pupils, and in the United States there are two hundred and twenty such schools with more than thirty thousand pupils. That these schools in our State may fulfil the purposes for which they were established, they must be liberally supported and furnished with appliances to do work of the highest excellence. While the schools in the cities and manufacturing villages are increasing, more complete in organization, and more effective in educating their pupils by employing better teachers, the reverse is the case in the agricultural districts. This accelerates an evil already great ; the diminution of population in the agricultural districts, and the increase in the cities. That a State may be truly prosperous, cities *may* grow, but the country *must* grow. It is a worthy object of consideration, to see whether better

facilities for education in the rural districts would not have some influence in checking this evil, and if a radical change in the school district system would not give the advantage sought. I would respectfully refer to the forthcoming report of the Superintendent of Common Schools for correct statistical information. Its tabulations indicate a more careful and economical management of the schools, with, at the same time, a decided improvement in their character as disclosed in better school rooms, more efficient teachings, and more vigilant supervision. Looking to further and more radical improvement in these directions, the superintendent will recommend legislation to secure a uniform and more careful examination of teachers, and a stronger, more permanent, and more economical supervision. The measures he will propose, seem to me, practical and worthy of your favorable consideration.

The law regulating the course of study to be pursued in our public schools and the text books to be used, has, from time to time, been changed to meet the growing necessities of our progressive system. It may not have escaped the notice of many that several of the States have added to the course of prescribed study, a treatise on the elementary principles of agriculture. The principles therein discussed are of universal application, and are interesting and profitable for all classes, especially so to our prospective farmers whose success in agriculture must depend largely upon a correct knowledge of its principles as a science. This matter deserves the attention of those interested in education, and I recommend the introduction of such a treatise to our list of common school text books.

FINANCES.

It is customary on an occasion like this to give a summary of the condition of our financial affairs and the situation and wants of the several institutions of the State. I would respectfully call your attention to the several official reports of

the State officers, for more detailed information than I am able to give.

The following financial statement covers the period that has elapsed since the inaugural address of my predecessor, the years 1881 and 1882:

The cash in Treasury January 1, 1881, was.	\$160,338 64
The receipts during the year were.	1,417,526 83
Total	<u>1,577,865 47</u>
The expenditures during the year were	1,435,460 21
The cash in Treasury December 31, 1881, was.	142,405 26
Total	<u>1,577,865 47</u>

The receipts for the year 1881 were from the following sources :

State taxes	\$1,104,145 77
County taxes.	9,404 50
Taxes on Savings Banks.	177,887 66
Tax on Railroad, Telegraph and Insurance Companies.	78,192 33
Sale of bonds issued by the State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts	30,000 00
Interest on deposits and taxes	1,967 97
Miscellaneous sources	15,928 60
	<u>1,417,526 83</u>

The expenditures for the year 1881 may be conveniently grouped as follows :

Public Debt.	\$83,000 00
Interest on Public Debt.	336,681 00
Sinking Fund	80,479 95
Pay-roll of Senate and House of Representatives	35,563 65
Educational purposes.	358,639 26
Bounty on Beet Sugar.	7,000 00
Agricultural purposes	12,415 46
State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts.	2,500 00
Penal and reformatory institutions.	67,146 56
Sundry other institutions	12,900 00
Insane and other State paupers.	41,634 77
Military purposes.	17,480 13

Pensions	\$19,656	50
Railroad and Telegraph taxes paid to the towns and cities.....	3,048	68
Indian tribes.....	15,166	70
Temporary loan and interest	202,469	77
County taxes paid	9,965	30
Miscellaneous and current expenses of the State Government, including salaries of all State officers, Judges and County Attorneys.....	129,712	48
	<hr/>	
	1,435,460	21
Cash on hand January 1, 1882, was	\$142,405	26
The receipts during the year were.....	1,432,130	20
	<hr/>	
Total	\$1,574,535	46
The expenditures during the year were.....	1,099,830	94
The cash in Treasury December 31, 1882, was.....	474,704	52
	<hr/>	
Total	\$1,574,535	46

The receipts for the year 1882 were from the following sources :

State taxes.....	\$1,055,289	62
County taxes.....	11,501	06
Tax on Savings Banks.....	206,469	43
Tax on Railroad, Telegraph, Express and Insurance Companies.....	138,601	89
Interest on deposits and taxes.....	10,532	31
Miscellaneous sources.....	9,735	89
	<hr/>	
	\$1,432,130	20

The expenditures for the year 1882 were as follows :

Public Debt	\$52,000	00
Interest on Public Debt.....	326,912	00
Sinking Fund.....	80,470	95
Educational purposes.....	370,005	43
Agricultural purposes.....	8,776	50
State College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts..	1,000	00
Penal and reformatory institutions.....	24,815	40
Sundry other institutions.....	11,400	00
Insane and other State paupers.....	44,239	37

Military purposes.....	\$15,235 56
Pensions.....	19,582 70
Railroad and Telegraph taxes paid to towns and cities	14,727 09
Indian tribes	13,785 35
County taxes paid.....	9,384 49
Miscellaneous and current expenses of the State Government, including salaries of all State officers, Judges and County Attorneys.....	107,487 10
	<hr/>
	\$1,099,830 94

LIABILITIES AND RESOURCES.

<i>Liabilities</i>	<i>Jan. 1, 1882.</i>	<i>Jan. 1, 1883.</i>
Bonded Debt.....	\$5,801,900 00	\$5,749,900 00
Trust Funds.....	707,283 59	719,031 98
Due School District No. 2, Madison.	1,000 00	1,000 00
Soldiers' Bounty Scrip.	800 00	800 00
Balance due on school fund, rolls of accounts, interest and warrants uncalled for, &c.....	414,679 86	459,065 82
County taxes collected.....	8,269 51	11,486 68
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$6,933,952 96	\$6,941,284 48
 <i>Resources</i>	 <i>Jan. 1, 1882.</i>	 <i>Jan. 1, 1883.</i>
Sinking Fund	\$1,436,367 29	\$1,571,185 03
Uncollected Taxes	1,005,029 79	1,011,722 35
Cash in Treasury.....	142,405 26	474,704 52
Balance, net indebtedness of State...	4,350,150 62	3,883,672 58
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$6,933,952 96	\$6,941,284 48

STATE DEBT.

The total bonded debt of the State, less the sinking fund, Jan. 1, 1881, was.....	\$4,576,043.00
Jan. 1, 1882, it was.....	4,365,533.00
Jan. 1, 1883, it was.....	4,178,715 00

DECREASE OF THE BONDED DEBT.

The reduction of the bonded debt of the State is brought about in three ways: first, by payments made annually upon

the debt ; second, by increase of the sinking fund by purchase of securities with the annual appropriation therefor ; and third, by interest received upon the securities, belonging to that fund, already held.

The State debt reached its highest point October 1, 1869, upon the assumption by the State of the municipal war debts in part, \$3,084,400 being by this act added to the already large indebtedness, bringing the bonded debt up to \$8,100,900. There was, however, at the end of that year an accumulation of securities in the treasury on account of the sinking funds, amounting to \$972,530, which deducted from the total, left the net bonded debt Jan. 1, 1870, \$7,128,370. This amount has been reduced, year by year, since that date as follows :

During the year 1870.....	\$331,196
1871.....	367,569
1872.....	261,592
1873.....	284,999
1874.....	308,276
1875.....	301,690
1876.....	143,581
1877.....	166,643
1878.....	146,559
1879.....	133,164
1880.....	106,698
1881.....	210,510
1882.....	186,817

The interest on the bonded debt has been reduced from \$509,000 in the year 1870, to \$326,913 in the year 1882.

In the year 1883, \$50,000 of the renewal bonds become due, and \$385,000 of the original war loan bonds. The payment of the smaller sum is already provided for by law. The Treasurer of State suggests that a portion of the surplus cash in the treasury be used to pay the larger sum in part, and that bonds be issued for the balance, payable in years when no outstanding bonds become due. The bonds issued under this arrangement can be purchased by the Treasurer

of State on account of the sinking fund, and not be placed upon the market. The rate of taxation for 1883 and 1884 will be no larger than for the years 1881 and 1882, unless the appropriations are largely increased; the Treasurer of State is of opinion that it may be somewhat reduced.

SAVINGS BANKS.

The history of the Savings Banks is interesting, and the increase of deposits is remarkable, indicating the frugality of the industrial classes.

The first Savings Bank in Maine was the Saco and Biddeford Savings Institution, organized May 27th, 1827. There are now in active operation 55, all but six of which have been chartered since 1865.

In 1860 the deposits were.....	\$1,466,457.56
In 1870 the deposits were.....	16,597,888.78
In 1880 the deposits were.....	23,277,675.82
In 1881 the deposits were.....	26,474,555.97
In 1882 the deposits were... ..	29,503,889.71

The full and concise report of the Bank Examiner furnishes the State with much valuable information. It will be seen that very many of the securities held by our Savings Banks will mature during the next two years, which will necessitate a corresponding amount of new investments. In view of this he recommends that a broader field and more discretionary power in the matter of investments be given to their managers.

On the ground that the earnings of Savings Banks must necessarily grow smaller as the old securities mature, and new investments are made, the Bank Examiner calls attention to the fact that the State tax of one per cent. on the deposits has become disproportionate to their income, and recommends that a reasonable reduction be made. These are questions worthy of the careful consideration of the Legislature.

THE STATE PRISON.

In the forthcoming report of the Warden and Inspectors of the State Prison, you will find a detailed statement of the

affairs of that Institution. The number of prisoners Nov. 30th, 1882, was 147, a falling off of 37 since the corresponding date of 1881. There is a marked increase in the number of life sentences. In 1870, the number was 10 or 6 per cent. of the whole number of convicts, in 1876, it was 18 or ten per cent., now the number is 36 or 25 per cent. The net cost to the State for the two past years above earnings has been about \$90 per annum to each convict. The manufacture of shoes being a losing business has been abandoned, and that of carriages increased.* The discipline is excellent, the work in the various shops and the sales of the products very satisfactory. The introduction of steam power would add greatly to the capacity of the workshops and would in the end be an economical investment, both for power and for heating purposes. There is a balance of the indebtedness contracted prior to 1880, amounting to \$30,066.44 with interest that has accrued since June, 1882, still unpaid. It was temporarily provided for by the Treasurer of State on recommendation of the Executive, and should with all other bills of indebtedness be paid with the least possible delay. I recommend that such provision be made.

INSANE HOSPITAL.

There is no public Institution which has higher claims on public and private sympathy and action than the Hospital for the Insane. The dreaded malady insanity visits alike the palace and the cottage, and all classes are equally interested that wise provisions be made for the speedy restoration if possible, and for the safety and comfort of this class of unfortunates. This idea has been fully recognized by the authorities of every State in the Union, and generous appropriations have heretofore been made when necessary. Let us simply do our whole duty.

Insanity appears to be on the increase among our people and unfortunately the dread of the hospital keeps away many curable cases until a chronic condition and other complications render the case more uncertain. The increasing number

of our insane calls for more accommodation, so that no applicant should be refused admittance, and a better classification of patients may be made; on this largely depend the chances for convalescence. It has been too frequently recommended to send the incurable and demented patients to our poor-houses in order to avoid expense. Would it not be more consonant with humanity to provide for them better accommodation than such houses usually afford? The Governor of Michigan has well said, "the poor-house is no place for the treatment and care of the insane as a class, a resort to the poor-house is a retrograde movement unbecoming the State."

The usual custom of sending insane criminals from the State Prison to the Hospital for the Insane, giving them the same accommodations and rooms with other patients, has caused just criticism, and should be abolished. Distinct and suitable apartments should be furnished for these unfortunates. I trust that the Legislature will find some remedy for this cause of complaint.

A vacancy in the office of Superintendent of the hospital exists by the resignation of Dr. H. M. Harlow, who has faithfully served the institution for over a quarter of a century. It is certainly desirable to secure the services of the most efficient and able Superintendent, which can only be done by an adequate salary. I would recommend that a more liberal salary be paid if it should be necessary, that such appropriation be made as may be necessary to complete and furnish the present unfinished building, and that such other appropriation be made as the public necessity requires, for the welfare of our insane.

REFORM SCHOOL.

I would respectfully suggest to the members of this Legislature, that they carefully consider the reports of the Trustees of the Reform School for the past two years, also the several reports of the Commissioners appointed by the Governor and Council to investigate the grave charges made against the

management of that institution. These reports give valuable statistical information and suggestions, which would seem to be sufficient to a full knowledge of the history and the financial, intellectual and moral condition, of the school. The fact that there has been much severe criticism, which has provoked both public and private discussion in regard to its management, calls for a thorough investigation on your part, to ascertain if many of the serious causes of complaint do not have their origin in the want of proper legislation. The lack of suitable arrangement for proper classification of pupils, is a question which should be considered. Hardened criminals should not be associated with young boys who are sent to the school for first offences, and who are perhaps more "sinned against than sinning," and who, under proper influences, might become useful members of society.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

The eighth annual report of the Managers of the Industrial School for Girls at Hallowell, will soon be placed before you. This institution is one of the most important of our State; is under the direction of a board of managers composed of able, earnest men and women, thoroughly alive to the importance of their work and deeply interested in the success of the school. During the eight years it has been in operation, 148 girls have been admitted to the institution. Of this number, 81 are now in good homes provided for them, 8 have been returned to friends, 2 sent to the Orphans' Home at Bath, 3 have escaped, 6 have been dismissed and 4 have deceased, leaving 44 now in attendance. The average attendance for the years 1881 and 1882, was 39 and 40 respectively. The buildings, with the farm of thirty-two acres upon which they are located, and a set of farm buildings of moderate dimensions, cost the State \$12,500, private parties contributing various sums aggregating \$13,500 additional. The school building is constructed to accommodate thirty pupils. The fact that on an average forty girls have been for the past year domiciled in the building, and that forty-four are now

there, and that the number is kept down to these figures by the most rigid restriction, shows conclusively the pressing necessity for increased accommodations. A new building of the same capacity as the present one seems to be indispensable to the success of the school. A resolve was presented to the last Legislature providing for an appropriation by the State of \$5,000 for this purpose, conditioned upon a like amount being raised by private subscription. This resolve met the unanimous approval of the committee to which it was referred and a report was made accordingly, but the Legislature saw fit to refer it to this Legislature. Several thousand dollars have already been raised by the friends of the school and more has been promised. Aside from the question of humanity and morals, as a question simply of economy and public policy, the State cannot afford to disregard the necessities of this institution, and I trust you will give it the consideration its importance merits.

SOLDIERS' ORPHANS' HOME AT BATH.

This institution commanded the cordial sympathy and enthusiastic support of the entire state at a time when its necessity was apparent. It has accomplished its mission by wise and judicious management, and is still worthy of public and private confidence. There are forty interesting children within its walls, well cared for, clothed, and being educated at the city schools. By reason of the small number of inmates, each year decreasing, the expense to the State is large for each child. It is a question for the Legislature to consider, whether the unoccupied departments could be utilized for other orphans of the State, so as to enlarge its sphere of usefulness and open its doors wider, to the interests of humanity.

MAINE GENERAL HOSPITAL.

This institution has great claims on public and private charity; every man, woman and child of understanding, should be interested in its success. It is not considered to be a strictly charitable institution, but statistics show that a

large proportion of the patients are entirely free, while there is still another class who pay only a part of the expense. Since 1878 more than one-half of the work of the hospital has been for free patients. But the charity of the institution is not limited to that class, as few of the paying patients pay more than \$7 per week, while the cost to the hospital during the last four years averages more than \$10 per week. When we consider the cost of surgeon's fees, and skilled attendance at home, \$7 per week would seem to be a small sum. It is not a local charity, for reports show that every year nearly every county is represented. Aside from the State appropriations, three-fourths of the contributions are received from Portland people; this does not appear from reports except as contributions for free beds; less than one-eighth of the relief is furnished to Portland people. The fund is small, being only \$30,000. During the past year the total expenses have been less than \$20,000. The cost of keeping up the house would not be much affected by an increase of patients. The institution is under the best management, and we trust that the Legislature will not fail to grant its usual appropriation for this worthy object.

DEAF, DUMB AND BLIND.

The institution at Hartford, Connecticut, furnishes adequate provision for the education of the deaf mutes of our State, and the learning by them of suitable trades. The faithful care and instruction bestowed on the pupils of this institution are commendable, and warrant the continued support of the State. The school for the deaf in the city of Portland is worthy of commendation. The progress that has been made by those who have availed themselves of the advantages of a home institution, where the articulating method is used, is remarkable. This school is worthy of patronage. The unfortunate blind children of our State are educated at public expense, at the Perkins Institution for the Blind at Boston. The advantages of that institution are unsurpassed. There is no lack of financial means to furnish all needed

appliances, in books and school apparatus, and every comfort is furnished. I would recommend that the appropriation of last year be continued.

STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC CHARITIES.

I call your attention to the fact that many States advocate and enjoy the utility and advantage that result from a competent board of men and women, who are delegated with a general official oversight of State institutions of a reformatory and penal character. There are in every State citizens of high character and attainments, imbued with a spirit of philanthropy and humanity, who are willing to serve the public in these great interests without pecuniary reward. In our State there may be a wide field open for reform in our prison, jails and reform school. A good result depends largely upon the character of such a board. The progress of reforms which has been secured by experience, study and research, if properly applied and used, would undoubtedly still elevate the moral and intellectual character of our institutions, and benefit their financial management.

THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND MECHANIC ARTS.

I commend this institution and its reports to your special interest and attention. It has gained largely upon public confidence in consequence of what it has done for the State. It has received the fostering care of the general government, and of our own State, and its claims should be asserted until its efficiency for permanent usefulness is fully appreciated, secured and established. It supplements our common school system and affords an opportunity for a more thorough and practical education of those who intend to follow farming or mechanics as a business. It is a college for the people, and should receive popular support. It still needs assistance in the purchase of a shop and apparatus for the necessary development and continuance of the department of practical mechanics. With such aid, I am assured the institution will recover from the loss of numbers occasioned

by charging tuition. The college still needs the fostering care of the Legislature, and rests its claim on its faith in the promise of the State, when she accepted the grant of land from the National Government establishing the college. The endowment is \$132,500, yielding an annual revenue of \$7,500. The tuition the past year has amounted to \$2,000. This is all the revenue the past year. In consequence of the abandonment of free tuition, the number of scholars has been reduced from 100 to 80. The General Government, it is expected, will render further assistance, and whatever is necessary to be done to sustain the college is worthy of your prompt and generous consideration.

THE MILITIA.

Under the laws our military force is composed of the enrolled, the reserve and the volunteer militia. The enrolled militia consists of all able bodied male citizens between eighteen and forty-five years of age, as returned by municipal officers, numbering 97,320. The reserve militia is organized, furnished with arms and equipments, but is of no expense to the state unless ordered on duty by the commander-in-chief. The volunteer force, consisting of two regiments of eight companies each, and one unattached company of infantry and one four-gun battery of light artillery, remains substantially as it was two years ago. The whole force is organized into one division, commanded by Gen. Joshua L. Chamberlain, who has been untiring in his efforts to bring the militia of Maine up to a high standard of excellence. To his efforts, seconded by the staff, regimental and line officers, a large portion of whom have seen service on the sanguinary fields of their country in the late war, we are indebted for the efficiency and high character of the militia of Maine, which has been highly complimented by an officer of the regular army detailed to attend the last annual review.

STATE PENSIONS.

The State continues to make provision, to a limited extent, to alleviate the pressing necessities of the deserving soldiers and seamen of the late war, who incurred disability in the service, and of their widows, orphans and dependent parents. The appropriation for the year 1881 was \$23,000; the amount expended was \$17,829.83; the number of applicants of all classes was 796; the number allowed was 543. The appropriation for 1882 was \$22,000; the amount expended was \$20,550.10; the number of applicants was 757; the number allowed was 611.

The advance in the prices of staple products and increase in the cost of living in the year 1882 over that of 1881 will account largely for the increased expenditure in the latter year.

The execution of this act devolves upon the Governor and Council, and the utmost care has been exercised by the member having this in charge to avoid needless expenditure on the one hand, and injustice to applicants on the other. This act is intended to prevent those who served their country in the hour of peril and are reduced to poverty, from incurring the odium of pauperism; a most worthy object and one that I trust will be continued by the law making power of the State of Maine so long as the necessity exists.

REVISION OF PUBLIC LAWS.

The last Legislature entrusted the Revision of the Public Laws of the State to Hon. Charles W. Goddard of the city of Portland, by an unanimous vote of both branches. This important work has been executed in an expeditious manner, and the result of the commissioner's labors, embodying the legislation of the past twelve years, will be before you. Judge Goddard was peculiarly fitted to discharge the duties of his office, and the character of his work has vindicated the wisdom of the selection, for his valuable research and labor will be appreciated by the State. It is very satisfactory to

our State to learn that great economy has been practiced by the Commissioner. The entire cost, so far, of the revision, including all unavoidable charges, will not exceed \$8,500. The State of Massachusetts has just fully completed the same kind of labor and the entire expense of revision and the cost of publishing the necessary amount of volumes will reach the sum of \$87,487.75. Although the whole amount of our work must be reprinted, it must fall far short of the Massachusetts expenditure.

The revision is accompanied with a report and a valuable historical note on the sources of land titles in Maine. The Commissioner also submits to your consideration forty-six amendments suggested by many of the eminent jurists of the State and adds some important suggestions of his own; among the latter there is a reference to the taking effect of constitutional amendments, to the publication of the laws and proclamations, a recommendation for a legislative draughtsman, suggestions in regard to the double taxation of mortgaged property, to the reorganization of the Law Court to facilitate the more speedy hearing and adjudication of law questions, and to the calling of a convention for a revision of the Constitution, all which with the Commissioner's report, are commended to your careful consideration. The addition of a reference index and reference index titles will greatly facilitate an examination of this new draft, and a reference to the revision of 1871 and the subsequent acts. It is hoped that the legislation of the coming session may be incorporated into the new volume, so that the fourth revision of the Statutes of Maine may be issued first and need no supplementary volume until 1885. I would recommend, if practicable, that such an addition be made.

LAW DEPARTMENT.

The last report of the Attorney General of the State will be laid before you early. You will observe that the Court has sustained the constitutionality of the statute by which express and telegraph companies have been taxed under the provisions of the public laws of 1880 and 1881. These taxes,

heretofore resisted, have now been paid into the treasury. The several suits involving the right of the State to tax railroad companies, under the law of 1880, have been tried before the full Court, and the constitutionality of the law sustained. A suit brought against the Portland, Saco and Portsmouth Railroad Company, under this act, is still pending. The Governor and Council, under the provisions of the present law, levied a tax on railroad companies amounting to \$99,-122.29; of this amount \$71,360.41 was promptly paid. The payment of the balance will depend upon the constitutionality of the statute.

The duties pertaining to the office of Attorney General are increasing. Important questions involving the construction of laws, the assessment and collection of taxes, the preparation of suitable blanks, and a variety of similar matters which require legal research and advice, have been submitted to the Attorney General, by the Executive and other departments, and have received prompt attention, with satisfactory results. The statistics and information contained in the report are valuable, and the suggestions are worthy of your consideration.

FISHERIES AND GAME.

The reports of the Commissioner for the past two years indicate favorable results from the money expended by the State. Popular feeling justly sustains the department of Fisheries and Game. Efficient laws should be passed and enforced, sustaining the policy of the State in the propagation of fish and game. Serious complaints have been made in regard to the manner of taking and the disposition of small lobsters, which without some remedy will produce deleterious consequences. The suggestions of the Commissioner are worthy of consideration.

INSURANCE.

The Commissioner has compiled valuable statistics in regard to the several companies doing business in this State. I commend to you his suggestions and recommendations.

The business is important, far reaching in its effects, and requires thorough supervision.

INDIAN TRIBES.

A personal inspection by the Governor and Council furnishes evidence that these wards of the State are making substantial improvement and advancement in education and agriculture. Treaty obligations require the State to make annual appropriations for their benefit in these particulars.

TAXATION.

The necessary expenses of the State Government should not be curtailed. The demands of education, State institutions, charities, and military defence, call for adequate appropriations for the public good. There should be strict economy in all expenditures.

The Legislature of 1874 inaugurated a new system of taxation, seeking to equalize it by removing a part of the burden from the productive industries of the State and transferring it to capital invested in railroad, telegraph, express and insurance companies, savings banks, and like corporations and business. By repeated changes of law, a system of taxation has been legalized and sustained by the constitutional authorities of the State, which has brought a new revenue into our treasury, and thereby lightened the burden on visible property.

The State of Vermont has already provided, by a tax on these several interests, a sum sufficient for all the State expenditures without assessing a single dollar on the several towns and cities.

I would suggest that the Legislature investigate the present system of taxation, as far as practicable, that measures may be devised to provide that all kinds of property and interests be reached, so that, in a just way, public burdens may be equalized; to this end I recommend that a proper tax be levied on telephone companies doing business in the State.

TEMPERANCE AND PROHIBITION.

Temperance has been for many years one of the leading public questions and has enlisted the service of many of the best men and women of our State. Prohibition had been prominent in the politics of the State; and, after an active agitation through many years, the Maine Law was adopted in 1851. The evidence is unmistakable that a majority of our people favor the policy of prohibition, and there are few localities which do not favor a wise and impartial enforcement of all law relating thereto. There has undoubtedly been a difference of opinion among good and conscientious citizens in regard to the best mode of eradicating intemperance, but there are few who are unwilling to admit that there has been a wonderful change for the better in public sentiment where the law has been rigidly enforced. In a large part of the State, embracing more than three-fourths of our population, the liquor traffic is practically unknown. It lingers on a small scale, and more or less secretly, in our larger towns and cities, producing in them the evils which inevitably arise from it wherever it exists.

The successful party at the recent election affirmed the principles of prohibition in its resolutions, and also recommended that the people of our State be allowed the opportunity of expressing an opinion at the polls, on a constitutional amendment, which, if adopted, will make prohibition a part of the organic law of the State. Kansas and Iowa, by a vote of the people, have incorporated prohibition into their respective constitutions, and a very active agitation is now in progress in many other States to the same end. The right of the people to determine for themselves what is most conducive to their interests, is in accord with the theory of popular government. Furthermore, constitutional prohibition would have the effect of keeping the question, to a considerable extent, if not entirely, out of party politics. In view of these facts, the Legislature will be called upon by petition and otherwise, as it has already been asked by the voice of

the sovereign people, to submit to them the determination of this question. It is your province to consider this request, and whatever may be the final result, let the voice of the people be the law of the land.

IMPORTANT MATTERS.

I would call your attention to the consideration of some better method of collecting statistics in regard to the resources, industries and material growth of our State; to the appointment of a valuation commission at some future day, looking for a more systematic and just valuation of the State, and a better distribution of the burdens of taxation.

The question of giving the women of our State the right of suffrage on all occasions, at least the practicability of removing many restrictions, is in keeping with justice and progress made by other States and worthy of favorable legislation.

DANGEROUS HERESIES.

Of late, public attention has been called to what is styled the unequal distribution of property by a class of agitators, whose purpose appears to be to create discontent among the masses, by the advocacy of some indefinite scheme for the equal distribution of property outside the law. Because all men are equal in the eye of the law, they illogically assume that they should enjoy equal ownership in property. Plausible as may be this doctrine in theory, in practice it would destroy that motive and ambition which inspire the individual to the highest effort. Under the most favorable conditions a given number of men will not acquire the same possessions. Place two men side by side in the same occupation; one will acquire property year by year, while each year's end will find the other in less favorable circumstances than at its beginning. Does any one believe that any policy of government or any code of laws can make both these men equally successful? If not, is there any pretence of justice in a theory which claims that these men should be put upon a level, by

despoiling one of his accumulations to make up for lack of skill, care or industry in the other?

Law can and should protect the poor and the weak against the exactions of the powerful and grasping; it can secure to the unfortunate a given amount of property which the creditor should be forbidden to touch; it can make him secure in the prosecution of an honorable vocation; it can give the laborer a first lien upon the products of labor and capital for his wages; it can and should compel corporate wealth to respect personal rights, should it attempt to ignore them. All this the laws of this State now give to the humblest individual. Further, our system of taxation treats with property rather than with persons; to that end, our public schools are largely supported by a general tax, so that many of the smaller and poorer towns receive more than they contribute.

Is there a sane man in Maine who will say to-day, that the laws should be so changed, as to take the property of the more prosperous and divide it among those less so? Indeed, is there one who will offer a system by which present apparent inequalities can be prevented?

Equality of conditions is known only among those savage tribes where poverty and want is the common lot. As soon as men achieve civilization, a part will be more successful in the accumulation of wealth than the many, just as a few men will excel the majority by force of their superior intellectual endowments.

The State can do this: it can give to all an education which will, as far as human agency can do it, remove natural differences between men and enable them to intelligently make use of their natural endowments. Industry, energy, and prudence with good common sense, will usually insure a good degree of success.

Only the communist and the demagogue will ignore these truths. More than all other influences, the teacher, the press and the pulpit can impress upon the young those principles of honesty, honor, self-reliance, perseverance and economy, which will insure a competency to all.

CORPORATE WEALTH.

In this State the relations between capital and labor have always been pleasant and satisfactory. There exists harmony and good feeling and a reciprocity of interest between all classes and all vocations. This should be encouraged by every good citizen. The evils of monopoly and the power exerted by consolidated wealth, injuriously felt in some communities, are not likely to gain any dangerous foothold among an intelligent people, and where the ownership of land is so largely and well distributed as it is in Maine. The general intelligence and virtue of the people will stand as a barrier against any unjust oppression arising from any source; and it will protect the ownership of property, and the rights of every individual, with the single purpose of doing justice to the citizen, whether rich or poor. Let every concession be made and all laws be passed, which will elevate those industrial classes and interests which add so much to the dignity, importance and material advancement of our State.

In the routine of business life there cannot be absolute security from wrong practices, neither can justice be meted out equally to all classes and vocations. There should, however, be an intelligent watchfulness on the part of the less favored communities and their representatives who, by the nature of their vocations and the laws which regulate business, can never accumulate large fortunes, so that justice, as far as possible by law, may be secured; the real object of popular government being to secure to all the greatest good and the widest field for effort. Popular opinion should not only be enlightened, but the public conscience should be kept alive by high standards of excellence. A popular judgment based upon such high ideals will purify and elevate politics, will demand true reforms, National and State economy in expenditures, the abolition of unnecessary offices, and will tolerate only such taxation as is essential to the public welfare. Such an intelligent and conscientious public sentiment will demand that every possible safeguard be placed about

the ballot-box ; will demand an untrammelled ballot and will hold the faith of the State sacred. Such a public sentiment will maintain that sound and exalted morality, that observance of the sanctity of the Sabbath and religious institutions which characterized our forefathers. It will eradicate demagogism and will entrust the public affairs to those men who, by devotion to the common interests, have shown themselves worthy of confidence. Such a public sentiment, such exalted patriotism and such devotion to the well being of all classes, will make us a living illustration of the great truth, "Righteousness exalteth a nation."

THE SAFEGUARD OF POPULAR GOVERNMENT.

During the past few years, issues have arisen and controversies have taken place in the State government, which have not only been discreditable to the State, but are calculated to bring official authority and law into contempt. It is idle now to enumerate these dissensions or their causes. It is better to point out remedies. Popular government will maintain the respect and regard of the people so long as elections are fairly conducted, votes are honestly counted, and the different departments of the government exercise their constitutional functions without trenching upon the others. The Executive shall take care that the laws are faithfully enforced, but the people have declared in the late election, that the Governor must not ignore the Executive Council, by removing officers without that advice and consent which is necessary to create them. Moreover, the people by a decided majority have declared that the Executive branch of the government is as much bound to conform its action to the opinion of the Supreme Court, when promulgated in obedience to the constitution, as private citizens are to obey its mandates. This decree of the people is in harmony with the letter and spirit of the constitution and the precedent since the foundation of the State. Such a Supreme Court as Maine has had from the beginning, men of integrity and purity of character, and

learned in the law, is not a tribunal which will transcend its constitutional limits. The late election in which differences of opinion upon this question were prominent issues, ought to settle them for all time. The condition of the State is elevated and universal society protected, when the decisions of upright and conscientious judges are acknowledged by honorable treatment, when intended to give constitutional justice to a State and constitutional expression to the will of the sovereign people. The repeated lesson of history should not be disregarded. The times are perilous and fraught with mischief when the public mind becomes influenced and debauched by purely personal aggrandizement, by the appeals of the selfish, however eloquent and talented.

To be in fact, as in name, a government of the people, elections should not only be free and fair, but the votes should be honestly counted. All strained interpretations of law, all legal hair splitting by which a different result may be secured than that which the ballots cast and counted show, or appear to have been intended to show, by those who deposited them, are crimes against popular government of the magnitude of treason, for such that offence must be held, by which the will of the majority is set aside and that of the minority substituted. The people of a State and nation will cordially acquiesce in the result of a free election, and an honest count. On the other hand, any restraint upon the freedom of the citizen to vote as he chooses, the tampering with ballot boxes, fraudulent counts and returns, and tricky tabulations suppressing or changing results in elections, will be followed by further abuses and if long continued will end in anarchy.

CONCLUSION.

Fellow citizens of the Legislature: Upon us has been conferred the highest honor, and to us have been confided the most sacred trusts. To us has been confided the care of a State that has made an illustrious record. We are proud to be her sons; we cherish her history; we glory in her institutions and achievements; we have the fullest faith in her

future. In every other part of the country her sons rise up to call her blessed. Two score of shot-torn battle flags in the hall below tell us of the heroism and devotion of her sons. She has never been without true patriots and wise statesmen to serve her. Her escutcheon comes to us without a stain. This goodly heritage we owe to fathers who founded our free schools and our civil and religious institutions by patriotic effort and sacrifice. It is not only a high privilege but a sacred duty to serve such a State. Forgetting that we are partizans, or that we represent this or that section, let us show ourselves worthy of our ancestors, and mindful of the glorious past of the Dirigo State, by devoting ourselves with singleness of purpose to promoting the welfare of the whole State and all her people. In such an exalted endeavor I pledge you my hearty co-operation. We meet at a time when the departure of the old and the beginning of the new year warns us of the flight of time and the decreasing opportunities for public and private usefulness; let us, then, make use of present opportunities and meet present responsibilities.

“For the truer life draws nigher
Every year;
And its morning star climbs higher
Every year;
Earth's hold on us grows slighter,
And the heavy burden lighter,
And the dawn immortal brighter
Every year.”

May the blessing of God attend the Legislature of 1883.

FREDERICK ROBIE.